PERIODICO EN ESPAÑOL ADENTRO

CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM · LUCHA POR EL COMUNISMO · PLP

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

Volume 56 No.13 July 3, 2024 Suggested Donation $1

'RED LINE' AROUND WHITE HOU$E

COMMUNISM IS LIBERATION

Joining thousands of protesters in Washington, D.C. to denounce Biden's hypocritical redline and amidst calls for Palestinian nationalism, Progressive Labor Party members and friends called for internationalism and multiracial unity for communism.

Washington, DC, June 8 — "ARAB, JEWISH, BLACK AND WHITE! WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!" chanted several dozen Progressive Labor Party (PLP) comrades and friends marching around the White House. We joined thousands of workers and students from around the U.S. gathering to form a "red line" demanding an end to genocide in Palestine. A busload of almost 40 PL'ers, students and friends from New York City joined comrades in Washington, DC and both raised internationalist communist politics and learned valuable lessons to carry the anti-imperialist class war forward.

With the confirmed death toll in Gaza exceeding 37,000, and the estimated numbers missing many tens of thousands higher, Israel, the rabid, mad-dog, fascist, puppet state of the U.S., has stirred masses of youth and workers into action. The revolutionary communist PLP salutes the brave masses facing down riot police in daily protests against genocide, and we fight to unite the entire international working class to smash this entire imperialist system once and for all!

Learning to fight, fighting to learn

For the bus ride down, young Party comrades planned and led a study group on nationalism vs internationalism, based on the 1968 PLP text, Revolutionaries Must Fight Nationalism, whose lessons are just as relevant today. Millions of youth and workers are appalled at the Israeli fascist genocide. Meanwhile opportunist groups uncritically praise the armed resistance led by Hamas, attacking any criticism as "dividing the resistance." As communists, theory and practice are inseparable — and it's the opportunists who divide the working class by hiding capitalist ideas in nationalist and religious dressing.

The study group discussion was vigorous and disagreements were sharp, with every person participating and sharing their views. While there were mixed views on nationalism, sharp points about how nationalism has not actually liberated the working class came from several workers/students from Puerto Rico, Lebanon, Ireland, and the Dominican Republic among others. And, despite some disagreements on the question of nationalism, one student joined PLP and will continue struggling with us. Others agreed to join or consider joining regular Party study groups. Our fight to unite the working class for an armed revolution for workers' dictatorship from NYC to Gaza continues!

PLP brings red line to "red line"

We arrived in D.C. to what was more of a festival than an actual protest. There were discussions about the massacres in Palestine and a people's court. Hundreds of youth and workers held a symbolic "red line" made from fabric around the White House's gates which had the names of workers murdered by Israel. We soon found out that police presence was low because march organizers had a permit for the action and there was a pride parade happening nearby (in fact anti-Genocide LGBTQ+ protestors who rallied next to the parade were some of the only protesters attaked by police that day). The main "red line" action seemed like a performance that complied with the capitalists' laws despite the angry mood of thousands willing to break them! Some of the organizers of the march even walked around asking people to sign a sheet to get candidates elected in the presidential campaign.

After evaluating the situation, we decided to turn up the energy and bring our own political red line to the protestors. We led a march around the White House,

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SCAN ME

OUR FIGHT

Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.
While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

CHALLENGE/DESAFIO (ISSN 0009-1049) published bi-weekly by Challenge Periodicals. 1 issue $1. One Year: $20. Six months: $15. Send address changes to CHALLENGE Periodicals, GPO Box 808 Brooklyn, NY 11202
July 3, 2024 • Volume 56 No.13

Editorial

From U.S. to Europe to Palestine—

Borders kill! Smash all borders!

As open fascists win elections throughout Europe by targeting migrant workers, the liberal racist bosses—from France and Britain to the U.S.—are leading their own virulent attacks. With the collapse of the old liberal world order, the rapid rise of China, and the accelerating decline of the U.S., the rulers' ranks are split and unstable. As inter-imperialist rivalry escalates and capitalism plunges into crisis, immigrants are in the capitalist rulers' crosshairs. In places with aging populations, including the U.S. and Europe, the bosses absolutely need migrant labor to keep their economies afloat. At the same time, however, they need anti-immigrant racism to divide and exploit workers—and to super-exploit Black, Latin, women, and immigrant workers. And they need scapegoats, a hallmark of rising fascism, to take the blame for their failing system.

The global "migrant crisis"—more than one hundred million displaced workers—is a creation of the bosses and their national borders, the artificial lines that serve to parcel out the capitalists' profits. The solution to the crisis is communist revolution—to create a borderless world that serves the needs of the entire international working class.

Biden's racist treachery

On June 5, U.S. President Joe Biden exposed the liberal bosses' treachery with an executive order that effectively stops migrant workers from claiming asylum in the U.S. Four years after promising to reverse Donald Trump's brutal migration policies, Biden used Trump's go-to statute: the 1952 Immigration and Nationality Act, a racist law that excludes "any class of aliens" if their entry "would be detrimental to the interests of the United States" (Al Jazeera, 6/5). This was nothing new for Genocide Joe. Last fall, breaking another 2020 campaign pledge, his administration confirmed it would build 20 miles of border wall in Texas with funds set aside by Trump. In May, Biden backed a proposed law to block asylum claims and add another 1,500 nazi border patrol agents (New York Times, 6/16). After Trump's puppets in Congress torpedoed the bill, the widely despised Biden took matters into his own bloodstained hands. In a desperate effort to beat Trump again this fall and keep his finance capital masters in charge, he's joined the global chorus of anti-immigrant fascists. He is scapegoating migrants for U.S. decline and the incurable sickness of capitalism.

The collateral damage of Biden's liberal racism are the workers and children fleeing the dire effects of U.S. imperialism, from capitalist climate change and war to joblessness, hunger, torture, and death. Thousands of migrants are trapped in squalid tent camps in Mexico, many of them run by cartel gangsters (American Sociological Association, summer 2023). Others are forced to risk their lives on remote routes into the U.S. through the California desert (Reuters, 6/11).

Biden's latest assault on migrants is more than a ploy to win votes from misguided workers. The main wing capitalist rulers—the big banks and multinational oil companies—are fending off a challenge by the Trump-fronted, isolationist bosses. At the same time, they need to condition workers to fight in the next world war against China or Russia or both. Vicious attacks on the most vulnerable workers are designed to acclimate our class to rising fascism. The bosses' tools are uber-nationalism, intensified racism, the suspension of fake legal "freedoms," and wholesale terror by the state. While the rulers' liberal media outlets will urge us to vote for Biden as the "lesser of two evils," make no mistake: Liberal misleaders are the main danger! We cannot vote our way out of fascism and inter-imperialist war. To smash the bosses' borders, we must abolish capitalism. Only communist revolution can truly liberate our class!

Europe: bosses on both sides build a base for fascism

The echoes of French imperialism still ring strongly across North Africa, compelling millions of workers to migrate north toward Europe in search of stable lives. With capitalism in decay and the French economy stalled, these migrants are met with anti-Muslim racism from French politicians and misled workers alike. Four days after Biden's racist crackdown, the gutter racist, anti-immigrant National Rally swept to a shocking win in the European Parliament elections with 31 percent of the vote, up from 23 percent in 2019—and more than double the total for President Emmanual Macron's Renaissance party (New York Times, 6/10). Macron, who's even less popular than Biden, called for snap elections to the French parliament this summer. It's a risky move that could usher the first openly fascist party into power in France since World War Two.

Elsewhere, Germany's Hitler-loving Alternative for Germany party finished second in the EU elections with 16 percent, up from 11 percent in 2019, with much of its new support coming from young workers (Reuters, 6/9). In Italy, Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's proudly fascist Brothers of Italy quadrupled its share to 29 percent. In the Netherlands, the Party for Freedom led by Geert Wilders, who refers to Moroccan immigrants as "scums," won six seats in the European parliament, up from one (AP, 6/10).

Like Biden, Europe's main wing capitalist leaders are responding to the open fascists' threat with revved-up racism of their own. In January, Macron joined forces with the National Rally's Marine Le Pen and signed a new law that cuts off social benefits for migrants and eases deportations—an "ideological victory," Le Pen bragged (Le Monde, 1/27). In France, "Islam and its practitioners are more than ever perceived and treated as needing control, surveillance, change, and if not, suppression" (Bridge Initiative, 1/24). In Britain, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has launched his Tory Party "manifesto" to cut legal migration by half each year, to put severe caps on work and family visas, and to force migrants to pass a health check before entering the country—and then to buy insurance if they are "likely to be a burden" (Independent, 6/11). Sunak's disgusting slander echoes Trump's racist rant about migrants "poisoning the blood of our country" (nbcnews.com, 12/17/23). Whatever their deep divisions, all bosses are sworn enemies of the workers of the world.

Stop migrant genocide with communist revolution

On June 8, the Israeli "Defense" Forces retrieved four Israeli captives—and slaughtered at least 274 Palestinians, including dozens of children, in a refugee camp in Nuseirat, in central Gaza. Already overwhelmed hospitals were thrown into chaos (Al Jazeera, 6/11). More than 37,000 Palestinians have been murdered to date by Israel's Zionist regime and made-in-U.S. bombs—nearly all of them migrants from the mass expulsions of 1948 or 1967 or the descendants of those refugees. As Israel's ethnic cleansing campaign continues apace, the migrant workers of Gaza are trapped in a stranglehold of national borders, with Israel on one side and Egypt on the other. Their homes have been destroyed and they have no place to go. One of the fascist members of Benjamin Netanyahu's racist cabinet has called for their "voluntary migration" out of Gaza—to clear the way for Israel's bosses to grab some highly valuable real estate and the vast reserves of offshore oil and gas.

Most of all, like workers in the U.S. and Europe, the migrants of Gaza are trapped by anti-working-class ideas—by the nationalism of Hamas and other misleaders who want a share of the profit pie. Their one way out of this nightmare is to unite with the international working class under the red flag of communist revolution. The fight for communism is inseparable from the fight to liberate workers in Palestine and forced migrants everywhere. Progressive Labor Party is building a mass organization of workers that transcends the bosses' borders. We are dedicated to ending racism, sexism, nationalism, and imperialism for all time. Join us in the fight for worker liberation!

Students walk out against genocide; keep fire of class struggle burning with PLP

New York City high school students protest against the U.S. backed Israeli genocide in Gaza and against the fascist response to protests on U.S. campuses. The Progressive Labor Party and CHALLENGE were there!

Over 1,000 New York City high school students walked out of school to protest the U.S.-backed, Israeli genocide in Gaza. Composed of students from every borough in New York City, hundreds of young people rallied at the headquarters of the Department of Education to demand justice for their class siblings in Palestine. Brave high school students spoke out, connecting the fact that NYC has the largest, most segregated school district in the nation, the same anti-Muslim, racist system of apartheid that fuels mass murder in Palestine.

From Gaza to NYC worker-student fightback is key

A student from the Columbia University encampment also spoke of the police terror and rising fascism that young people are facing for their protests. From suspension and expulsion to brute police force, youth understand that the veneer of liberal democracy is crumbling. The ruling class has run out of arguments and reasonings—Joe Biden and his clique are falling back on naked violence to silence dissent. But it is despite this ruling-class terror that young people continue to risk and sacrifice in the name of multiracial and internationalist solidarity. Indeed, young people see themselves in the cause of Palestine: the genocidal destruction of worker's futures in Gaza echoes the receding future that young people everywhere are experiencing as climate change, poverty, and escalating war rack the planet.

As courageous students put everything on the line in these protests, it is critical that they do not succumb to cynicism. Nationalist misleaders are already attempting to hijack youth energy, diverting it into supporting the Palestinian ruling class. These nationalist elements are ready to sell out workers, to silence calls for revolution, and to accommodate a future occupation of Gaza on terms acceptable to Israel.

To liberate Palestine, nationalism must go

Against nationalist misleaders, Progressive Labor Party (PLP) was also at the high school rally fighting for internationalism. Educators of the Party stood with their students, distributed CHALLENGE, and continued to build a base for nothing less than communist revolution. The working class needs a party that unifies the entire working class and sustains revolutionary optimism. From all the rivers to all the seas—you too should join PLP to keep the fire of class struggle burning brightly from the Department of Education to Palestine, to Sudan, to Congo, to Haiti, to the ends of the earth.

NJ encampment
Same genocidal enemy, same anti-fascist fight

Newark, NJ, June 5 - The Rutgers-Newark encampment was squashed by liberal university bosses in cahoots with Black nationalist misleader Mayor Ras Baraka. Although students and workers did not win their demands after 40 days of demonstrating, winning workers closer to the Party is a victory. To steel our minds and morale for inevitable fascist attacks, NJ school teachers within Progressive Labor Party (PLP) held a fiery teach-in on fascism at the encampment days before.

With many workers and students one emergency away from homelessness and one ruling class conflict away from genocide, liberal misleaders are struggling to sell the idea of keeping capitalist democracy alive. Despite well-intentioned words and reforms, liberal misleaders are marching our class into the hands of fascism and World War III. To reverse and smash this plan, workers, students, and soldiers must channel mass fightback into a single internationalist fight for communism. Only a united multiracial, multi-gendered, multigenerational working class of millions organized under the red banner of a communist Party—PLP—can smash this genocidal system for all time.

From the masses to the masses: learning to identify fascism to smash it

The PLP-led teach-in began with questions from two dozen multiracial, working class fighters. How is fascism connected to Newark? What does fascism look like in schools? Afterward, we read a May Day speech from a Brooklyn-based PLer who was reprimanded by the school administration for encouraging his students to fightback against the genocide in Gaza. PLers mobilized students and teachers against the bosses who violently forced him to stop teaching. He won his job back.

The shared working class wisdom revealed the following: What we associate with fascism, be it violent racist, sexist, or anti-working class tendencies within our families, neighborhoods, or workplaces, is always linked with the competition of ruling bosses across nations. For example, a principal firing a teacher for encouraging students to take a stance against the genocide in Gaza is acting on behalf of U.S. bosses. We discussed how the popular conception of fascism as attacks from the far-right on progressives is just the tip of the iceberg. Fascism involves a larger process of class warfare responding to the changing conditions of capitalism.

Our collective conclusions were put to the test in determining Mayor Ras Baraka's roles. Two older workers argued Baraka was not fascist because he implemented reformist initiatives, including temporary shelters for some unhoused workers. In response, a Black community member revealed those small deeds didn't change Newark's economic apartheid. Baraka is allowing a division to grow between Black and Latin workers facing evictions and the more stable base of multicultural workers for capital being used to replace and isolate them. A high school student brought the teach-in home by declaring: "Ras and these people are still participants in a fascist system and cannot ultimately avoid having to play their role in developing fascism when it is needed."

Fascist Baraka shows himself

Days later, antiracist fighters woke up to a blaring bullhorn, warning demonstrators to clear the encampment or face arrest. While most of the city was home asleep, Newark PD mobilized to close off all traffic surrounding the encampment so that the Rutgers PD could move in. PLers met campers at nearby Harriet Tubman Park, where many young people started to see the role that Baraka plays for the ruling class. Some took to social media to blast the Mayor. Baraka distanced himself and the Newark PD from the incident, but the fighting workers and students shot back with photos and videos of Newark PD on the encampment clearing them out.

As the Black community worker expressed in the teach-in, this isn't about one person. If it isn't Baraka, it would be someone else. These encampments are teaching the working class lessons about internationalism and multiracial unity as anecdotes against fascism, be it from a liberal or outright racist. The danger of the Trump-led racist and sexist movement is real, but the attacks from the liberal wing of the U.S. ruling class (the Big Fascists) exposed their willingness to be servants to ruling class bosses when capital is on the line.

As comrades reflect on this teach-in and the end of the Rutgers encampment, we are reminded that what we do counts. Only by fighting alongside the students and workers at the encampment and within our schools were we able to have a great turnout and enthusiasm at the teach-in. Several of our friends advanced their political understanding as a result of not only seeing the need for internationalism and multiracial unity but also a communist, internationalist party to keep up the fight. The quantity of these efforts qualitatively advances the fight for communism.

Mexico

Workers fight bosses' commodification of water

In a community east of the Valley of Mexico, a group of comrades and friends of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) have organized with our neighbors to fight the water shortage that has affected our neighborhoods for years. Recently the shortage has worsened, due to the overexploitation of wells and the criminal negligence of the bosses who refuse to maintain the hydraulic network, instead favoring the business of selling bottled water or workers needing to pay for supply through pipes.

Capitalism is incapable of meeting workers' basic needs, even access to clean water, that under this system becomes a commodity that you can only have access to if you can buy it. Under a system of social equality like communism, workers' needs would be the top priority, as our collectively organized society will ensure access to healthy water for all.

Bosses monopolize water

The capitalist ruling class in Mexico has privileged the business of selling bottled water. The country ranks first place in the world in consumption of bottled water (and sweetened drinks) because only around 60 percent of homes have a reliable daily supply (El País, 9/8/2023). Additionally, the bosses prioritize the water supply for agricultural use, the brewing industry and mainly for agroindustry and industrial zones.

The Valley of Mexico, where 22 million people live, is supplied with water mainly extracted from wells (75 percent), which are overexploited and of poor quality (La Jornada, 4/1). The rest is brought from the Cutzamala system, which is at critical levels due to low rainfall, overexploitation and pollution of the basins.

Within the community in struggle, the neighbors first organized a protest to demand that water be supplied to the area's hydraulic network, but the municipal government responded that the pump to extract it is useless and it will take months to repair, so they offered to extend the water pipes to homes, free of charge.

In an example of how the working class can organize society collectively, neighbors formed brigades to direct the supply of water in pipes to the homes where it is needed most...

While the authorities agreed to install enough pipes to supply each household with two thousand liters of water, the municipality only sent three to four water pipes which only supplies half of what they promised – an insufficient amount to provide water for the working class here.

Workers can and must take control

In an example of how the working class can organize society collectively, neighbors formed brigades to direct the supply of water in pipes to the homes where it is needed most, those with children, elderly or workers with illnesses. Our comrades meet every week with neighbors to evaluate and organize actions and report on the problem. We have helped organize marches where chants like "Water is not for sale, it is cared for and defended" ring furiously in the streets. But capitalism, which makes everything about profit, can't help but exploit and destroy nature and put a price tag on it.

In places like Ecatepec's fifth district, a municipality in the state of Mexico, water comes from the Cutzamala system, a complex network of canals, tunnels, pipelines, pumping plants, dams, and reservoirs, yet around 90 percent of the water pipes have been privatized (Sin Embargo, 6/25/22). The system has been overexploited as the local bosses smuggle the water out of the systems and resell it back to the working class for profit. The local authorities have exposed this criminal business, but are "powerless" to stop it. Also, there are car assembly companies that, in collusion with the municipality, steal water that they pay an average of 1,500 pesos for when they should pay close to 2 million, due to their high consumption. This is another clear example that capitalism is based on corruption, violence and theft, above the needs of workers.

Smash capitalism to liberate resources

Our comrades have put forward the communist analysis of this water struggle in our community by showing that capitalism promotes companies to monopolize water and profit from the need for the vital resource, putting the health and lives of millions of workers and their families at risk. But at the same time, we show in practice that these problems must be faced through the fight against capitalism, a harmful and deadly system that needs to be overthrown, so the working class can organize and run a superior communist society.

Bring communism to 'red line' around White Hou$e

At the D.C protest against genocide, PL'ers injected communist chants, distributed 1,000 CHALLENGEs and over a 1,000 leaflets. We also held discussions that contrasted communism with nationalism, contacts were made, the struggle continues

Continued from page 1

which a crowd of protestors joined, encouraging those holding the red cloth to yell red chants. Throughout the day, we distributed 1,000 CHALLENGEs and over 1,100 leaflets calling to smash the genocide in Palestine with communist revolutions that will burn this system to the ground.

Comrades and friends debriefed on the day before departing back to NYC, and the consensus was our Party-led injection of militancy and energy into the protest was both necessary and well-received against the sedated, election-oriented event organizers. It also became clear that political disagreements on nationalism were unresolved among some of our friends. In particular, some students questioned if focusing on internationalism and anti-imperialism "de-centers" the legitimate aspirations of workers in Palestine for freedom. Essentially, their question was: how are we as communists engaging in the struggle against Israeli genocide?

"From the masses, to the masses"

Part of how the disagreement on the bus was handled reflects our task to sharpen our political skills and build a mass base for PLP. Self-critically, one of the things we could've done better was to first invite the students who came from the encampments to share their experiences fighting back in sharp anti-racist struggle. These courageous students exemplify the militant student-worker unity that our Party fights for. much to learn from. And we should emulate their bold struggles. We could've also presented our chants earlier on, discussed and provided clarity about why we do the chants that we do.

At the same time, our Party's line, shaped by six decades of sharp struggle, is an invincible revolutionary weapon in the hands of these students and the masses. PLP fights for internationalism because there is a class basis in international, working class solidarity. We oppose nationalism because we have the history proving that despite tremendous struggles like in Vietnam and South Africa, it's a dead-end solution for the working class. Vietnam today is a global center for sweatshop factories, while South Africa's African National Congress is in alliance with the same apartheid fascists the international working class waged a decades-long armed struggle against.

Communism is liberation

If we know that nationalism leads back to capitalism — and racism, sexism, and imperialism — we must fight for liberation by opposing it! Capitalism is our enemy no matter the gender, skin color or religion of whatever politicians are the face of it. than ever the working class is looking for actual solutions - not another fake "progressive" form of capitalism.

That same day of the march, Israel committed another massacre killing 274 more of our class siblings at a refugee camp. Our task is to crush imperialism or it will keep crushing us. The imperialists are preparing to plunge the international working class into another World War for their profits. PLP's solution is to organize the international working class to fight for a communist world that is run by and for the working class, where there are no genocides, wars or nations that divide us. PLP is a party for ALL youth and workers with antiracist, anti-sexist and anti-imperialist ideas — JOIN US!

Lessons from Vietnam War movement

PLP's antiwar legacy

P.L.P. and Black workers lead anti-racist Vietnam War march through Harlem; banner behind reads "Get out of Vietnam now!" From the Haitian Revolution to 2024, Black workers' leadership is key for communist revolution.

The following article was excerpted and from PLP history, a five part essay published in PL Magazine Spring 2018 Vol. 15 No. For the full article visit www.plp.org.

In the early 1960s, class struggle was heating up. The U.S. bosses embarked on a genocidal war in Vietnam. The leadership shown by the working class in Vietnam after decades of resistance to French imperialism inspired millions of workers worldwide. Black workers led rebellions in almost every major U.S. city and rocked the capitalist class back on its heels. In the midst of intensifying class struggle in March 1964, a Yale University conference on socialism was attended by many pseudo-left organizations, including the "Communist" Party USA and various Trotskyite groups.

The conference was geared for a scholarly debate on theory. Only Progressive Labor Movement (PLM) broke through this nonsense to advocate building a militant anti-imperialist movement! PLM leader Milt Rosen electrified the audience of 500 students and faculty by focusing on opposing U.S. imperialism's efforts to crush the revolutionary movement in Vietnam. He called for a nation-wide mobilization on May 2 to protest U.S. aggression there. The proposal was approved overwhelmingly and a May 2nd Committee was organized under PLM's leadership.

PLP launches anti-war movement

On May 2, thousands of workers and students marched and rallied in cities nationwide. In New York City, 1,000 heard PLP speeches about the necessity for communist revolution. They broke a police ban on demonstrations in midtown Manhattan, winding their way through Times Square to the United Nations, demanding: "U.S. Get Out of Vietnam Now!" It was the first national demonstration against the U.S. imperialist invasion and the forerunner of countless protests against U.S. rulers in the years ahead.

The Committee became a national organization called the May 2nd Movement (M2M). Hundreds joined. They played a major role in popularizing the struggle against U.S. imperialism's war against workers and peasants in Vietnam. They issued hundreds of thousands of leaflets, buttons and pamphlets; initiated numerous university teach-ins; organized rallies and marches; and developed "Free Universities" as an off-campus alternative to the rulers' educational system.

PLP steers anti-war movement in a militant, communist direction

Following a massive Washington, D.C. anti-war rally of 25,000 organized by Students for A Democratic Society (SDS) in the spring of 1965, PLM's leadership fought inside M2M to dissolve it and join SDS, a move supported by the overwhelming majority within M2M.

M2M did play a vanguard role in opposing U.S. imperialist aggression in Vietnam and successfully broke with the old pacifist "peace movement" dominated by the Communist Party USA. That movement was never anti-imperialist but rather championed ruling-class collaboration behind slogans like "Ban the Bomb"; "Peaceful Co-existence"; and "For A Sane Nuclear Policy" — as if the working class could ever make peace with imperialist rulers! PL's slogan--"U.S. Get Out of Vietnam Now!"—was eventually adopted by millions.

M2M helped move the emerging anti-war forces to the left and toward anti-imperialism. Many youthful fighters joined PLM, having learned from their mass struggles in the M2M. It was youth of this and many mighty struggles against racism and imperialism that our Party— Progressive Labor Party (PLP) was born.

Fast forward 60 years, once again youthful fighters around the world are lifting their fists and voices in defiance against the imperialist war machine which sacrificed tens of thousands of working class lives in Palestine to its deadly meat grinder in less than a year. Students are hungry for an alternative to this racist genocide system and are searching for solutions that can never be found in nationalist movement or the rulers' blood soaked ballot box. The solution to genocide can only be found in joining the only Party with 60+ years of experience, steeped in the working class, who continues to learn from the lessons and mistakes of the past, evolving through struggle and theory. Together students, workers, and PL'ers, united under the red flag, have the power to smash this system and create the world our class deserves from Congo, Gaza, to the U.S.A. Until then read and spread CHALLENGE widely, join a study group, become a member of PLP. We have a world to win!

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Salute to working-class fathers in Gaza and beyond

This Father's Day I celebrated part of the day with my family at a protest honoring Palestinian fathers killed or struggling to survive. As the intensified genocide in Gaza has continued into its nine month, countless family members have lost fathers and father figures. Several speakers at the event in NYC raised money for Palestinian workers who have been devastated by the U.S.-financed atrocities. While the bosses media will occasionally describe the tragedy of working class children and women killed in Palestine, there is a tendency on the part of the racist news outlets to belittle the lives of working-class Palestinian men killed by Israeli bombs.

I had the chance to speak as a member of Progressive Labor Party and a mass organization from my neighborhood that has been holding weekly vigils for those killed in Palestine. I shared a song about being a dad under capitalism, the alienation I've felt taking time off from my regular job, and how we are all hurt by the sexist, racist, Zionist system. "Let's raise this generation to not use quick fixes, band-aids or sutures /But cure the whole world with communism as their future" I concluded. I then distributed over 20 CHALLENGE newspapers to the small but spirited crowd and exchanged contact info with several folks I met.

Beat back kkkourts' attack on Mohawk

Last issue contained a letter describing the spirited defense in court of working class fighter Mohawk. The bosses tried to use their courts and jails to ruin his life for defending fellow workers under attack by the bosses' violent lapdogs, the cops. If you have been involved with the Party for any amount of time, or even if you haven't, you know the bosses and the police use the courts as a formality to fining, imprisoning, and even murdering working class resistance. We workers are often fed propaganda about the so-called neutrality and objectivity of our legal system, that "justice is blind." Well the bosses seem to have their eyes wide open to the reality of class warfare and so when the working class came to the trial in numbers to support Mohawk,the bosses and judges knew they better back off! That is the only reason six of Mohawk's eight felonies were dropped. The rest of us need to take the same lesson away: we are in a war between workers and bosses (and their errand boys the police). The courts did not protect Mohawk, it was the working class who made the judges and police retreat from their attack. Don't let the misleaders trick us into trusting the bosses' courts. Keep on building our red army of workers and keep up the fight!

DC protesters open to communist ideas

I wanted to share some thoughts on my conversations at the "Red Line" pro-Palestine rally at the White House in Washington, D.C. recently. There are many opportunities for Party building at these big demonstrations. One conversation was with a recent graduate who had earned a master's degree in mechanical engineering. He and his friends had been able to land jobs that did not involve defense contractors, either for bomb making or designing planes with bomb storage. I asked him to write a letter about these growing war preparations to CHALLENGE.

He graduated from Clark University in Worcester and knew about the long strike at St. Vincent's, but was intrigued to learn of Progressive Labor Party's involvement in that struggle. Another protester I met attends the University of Maine. She also was interested in our Party. She is interning in Richmond, VA along with another student from Richmond.

I gave both of them our nearby comrade's number and I sent him their numbers for follow up along with CHALLENGE. Three young men from Cincinnati came on a bus sponsored by PSL. We discussed the pitfalls of socialism and the need to abolish the wage system by a direct fight for communism, so they have a lot to think about now. Interestingly, one of their friends works at a Honda factory. Hopefully we'll stay in touch.

The most hilarious encounter I had was with a woman who asked, "Do you follow Bob Avakian?" I explained he was a cult leader and PLP fights against revisionism and cults of personality. She was visibly relaxed and took the paper. Overall, our PLP team got over 10 solid contacts. Comrades are already meeting with two of them with more to come. The future is bright!

No more Riot Fest—what we do counts!

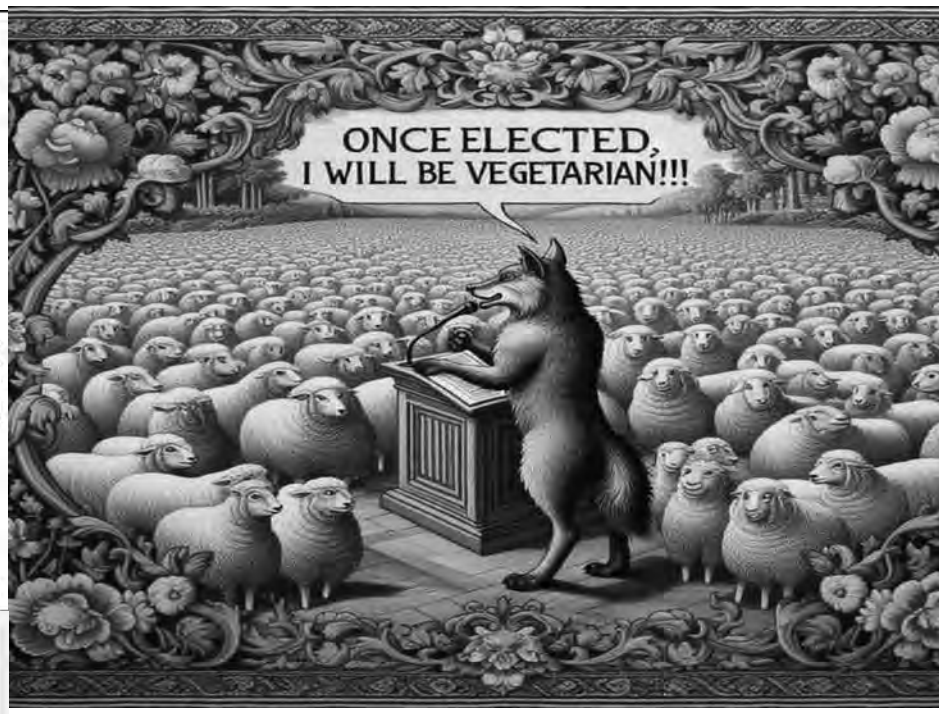
On June 11th the residents in my neighborhood and I received some uplifting news: the despised and destructive for-profit rock festival, Riot Fest, would NOT be returning to the west side of Chicago for September of this year. Since 2015, the concert has been held in Douglass Park, blocking off access to green and recreational spaces for mostly Black and Latin workers and youth for weeks at a time (see CHALLENGE, 7/5/23).

This outcome represents a significant victory for working-class residents of the area. Up against a well-equipped foe with media savvy, loads of money, and connections to local bosses, a multiracial group of residents organized tirelessly to expose the exploitative and racist nature of Riot Fest and mobilize a base of support. Countless letters were written, petitions were circulated, park district meetings attended, and damage to the park in the aftermath was documented. Every seemingly small action contributed to the goal – what we do counts!

I personally have been inspired and honored to take part in the anti-Riot Fest organizing in a very modest capacity. As a communist, I understand that every reform victory that the bosses give up to us workers is almost always temporary. I know that because we still live under capitalism that other capitalist businesses are going to keep working non-stop to make profit in racist and sexist ways.

The victory that the bosses can't readily take away is the multiracial unity, collectivity, and elevated class consciousness that has grown through the organizing work. That we can work and struggle together for common goals without material incentives. These are the communist ideals that I have worked to try to insert into our group discussions.

What hasn't hurt either to raise consciousness of the nature of the capitalist system is the gross opportunism of the city's bosses, including the "people's mayor" Brandon Johnson. upon hearing the news he asked if there was a way to "salvage" the relationship with Riot Fest! When we see the system for what it is and have confidence in our ability to run society better, we are making steps towards an egalitarian world. The struggle continues!



Top meme No amount of progressive rhetoric or voting for Black, Brown, female, and LGBTQ+ politicians will change the fact that capitalism – with its need for racism, sexism, poverty, and imperialist wars – is a deadly system. Politicians lie, workers die.

Bottom meme: The difference between voting Democrat/liberal and Republican/conservative is that liberals will drop bombs painted with LGBTQ+ flags and issue kill orders signed with their pronouns. As our latest editorial points out, liberals are the leading force attacking migrant workers from Gaza to Europe to the U.S. They are the main danger ushering in fascism. Reject the rulers' blood-soaked ballot box. Fight for communism.

Red lesson from Tupelo Summer of '79

Continued from page 8

and students in Tupelo and throughout the South are winnable to antiracism.

Below is an edited excerpt from PL Magazine (Fall 1979) analyzing an aspect of the Tupelo Summer Project:

The great July demonstration

Sixty-five antiracist marchers, organized by Progressive Labor Party and its [then-mass organization] International Committee Against Racism (InCAR), were marching through the streets in Tupelo, Mississippi chanting, "Death to the Klan."

Shots rang through the air.

As the bullets grazed two marchers, a disciplined group of people, Black and white, rushed out of line, isolated the racist who wielded the gun, and beat him to the ground. In the fight that ensued with this Klansman, or Klan supporter, the antiracists broke his neck. While this was happening, the marchers, maintaining a tight discipline that won them the respect of Tupelo's working class, continued the march. The marchers, encouraged by the friendly faces that lined the streets and by the workers who joined the march, were able to withstand the menacing threat of the Tupelo police, who aimed their cocked guns at them.

From the start, it was clear that the racist local rulers wanted to stop this march. A new ordinance was created by the city government banning sound devices (in response to successful PLP-led rallies in the past). The police and their flunkies systematically tore down posters in the housing projects, and a permit for the march was not granted until the very last minute.

As the march gathered in front of the courthouse, the bosses' seat of power, a militant rally began, attracting a lot of people in the area who joined in chanting, "The cops, the courts, the Ku Klux Klan, all a part of the bosses' plan."

'Before I was scared, now I'm mad'

Many militant workers in Tupelo have come to see InCAR as the main mass organization that can lead workers in the fight against racism and the resurgence of fascist groups like the Klan. One Black woman worker said, "Before I was scared, but now I'm mad." This represents the feeling of many people here, that there is no longer the luxury to sit back and watch the ruling class and its flunkies hold power, that they have to get active and build a movement that has as its goal the destruction of the ruling class ideas of racism and fascism, and in the final analysis, the ruling class itself.

The political climate is changing rapidly in the South, and only groups like PLP are prepared to respond to the changes, give leadership, and organize the multiracial, antiracist fightback that is necessary to move workers to the left.

The United League, a Black reformist group, recently canceled a march scheduled for Okolona (a town not far from Tupelo) because its leader, Skip Robinson, essentially chickened out of the struggle. More and more people are realizing that UL's leadership cannot stand up to the rigors of the class struggle.

Workers put themselves on the line

Respect for PLP was growing in Tupelo. Two residents of Tupelo put up their houses as collateral so that our comrade could be bailed out of jail. When the two marchers who had been wounded were treated in the hospital, they were warmly received and treated by white doctors and other hospital workers. After the march stopped to rally, hundreds of Black workers surrounded the marchers to protect them from the cops (who would have been only too glad to be trigger happy).

This was the first time a racist had been beaten by an antiracist march in Tupelo. The leadership of the UL had always guaranteed the safety of the KKK and the cops by holding back the anger and hatred of Black workers in the fight to liberate themselves from the racism they faced every day. The bosses always think that they can destroy a workers' movement by getting its leaders, but little do they know that leaders always spring up in the midst of struggle. There were many, many people right in Tupelo, and other cities North and South, and there still are today, who can develop as working-class leaders in the fight against racism and fascism, and they were and are being trained by Progressive Labor Party.

This was readily proven by the response not only of the marchers, in their determination to continue the march without being intimidated by the cops' harassment, but also by the tremendous support of the local people. Over 200 copies of InCAR Arrow and CHALLENGE were sold, and four people joined InCAR on the spot. Another demonstration was planned on the spot.

The main lesson PLP learned in Tupelo, as everywhere, is to be bold. The bolder we were, the more seriously people took us and the more willing they were to respond to us. Workers understand that the system will come down hard when you try to fight it. They are also ready to understand that you only win on the offensive.

The struggle continues

Forty-five years later, workers are sharpening class struggle against both ultra-right racists and liberal centrists of our time. Even with disagreements over neo-Nazism and multicultural capitalism, both sides of the ruling class agree on the concept of capitalist dictatorship over us workers and working-class students. We cannot wait or vote for the bosses to hand us revolution. We must take and build the egalitarian world that our class needs, with the same militancy and unity as the multiracial fighters in Tupelo.

To put our most recent practice of building against the genocide in Gaza, especially under fascist repression, to the test, we are taking the streets of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, July 15-19 during the Republican National Convention (RNC). Following this week of fightback, we will march with our left fists raised to the Democratic National Convention (DNC) in Chicago, Illinois, August 19-23. Until the ruling class' ideas of racism and fascism are smashed to dust, we will not stop, we will not rest. Join us this summer to build the Progressive Labor Party in our fight for One World, One Party. Contact your local PL'er or email desafio.challenge@gmail.com for more info!

'You can't smash the bosses without passing the hat'

As the bosses' rivalries are leading to rising fascism and open war around the world, workers are confronting racist and sexist exploitation, capitalist violence, and imperialism. Capitalism has forced record numbers of migrants to flee their homes to avoid violence or economic crises. Meanwhile, the bosses are trying to prepare workers to fight and die for them in the next world war. The international working class is refusing to take these vicious attacks lying down, but continues to need strong communist leadership to end this profit system once and for all. The Progressive Labor Party continues to provide this leadership around the world.

As communists, we know we must build a world without wages or any system of money. Until then, we live under the limitations of this capitalist system. We ask workers to sustain the Party's work through donations.

Contributions can be made the following ways:

Cash it: Donate through your local PL'er!

Check: Write the check out to "Challenge Periodicals" and mail to PO Box 808, Brooklyn, NY 11202.

PayPal: Go to to plp.org and click "donate"

Join us in the fight to smash capitalism and build a communist world!

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Foreign Affairs, 6/17–The biggest hunger crisis in the world is unfolding in Sudan, and it is manmade. As of now, more than half of the country's 45 million people urgently need humanitarian assistance. In May, the United Nations warned that 18 million Sudanese are "acutely hungry" including 3.6 million children who are "acutely malnourished." The western region of Darfur, where the threat is greatest, is nearly cut off from humanitarian aid. According to one projection, as much as five percent of Sudan's population could die of starvation by the end of the year... This dire situation is not the result of a bad harvest or climate-induced food scarcity. It is the direct consequence of actions by both sides of Sudan's terrible civil war...Neither side is likely to relent on its own.. the keys to opening the country to aid likely lie in the hands of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, the two biggest regional powers vying for influence in the Horn of Africa.

Israeli military guilty of torture

DerSpiegel, 6/7–His father, his five older brothers and he were detained by the Israeli military in late February. The soldiers, he says, discovered a tunnel near their home in Zaitoun, a district of Gaza City, and immediately arrested them. At first, they were locked up in a neighboring home. After a few hours, they were made to undress and sit in a hole in the ground. It was cold, he says, and the soldiers poured water on them and urinated on them. Then, says Obaid, they tied him up, blindfolded him, cut open his underwear with a sharp object and shoved a wooden stick into his anus. He says he begged them to stop. After that, he says, he was brought to a military camp and detained for 18 days. The soldiers there interrogated him over and over again, asking him about his family members, his neighborhood and Hamas. And they repeatedly hit him in the head and upper body, he says, adding that he still has nightmares...

Nigerian workers suffer economic disaster

NY Times, 6/11–Nigeria is facing its worst economic crisis in decades, with skyrocketing inflation, a national currency in free-fall and millions of people struggling to buy food. Only two years ago Africa's biggest economy...The pain was widespread. Unions strike to protest salaries of around $20 a month. People die in stampedes, desperate for free sacks of rice. Hospitals are overrun with women wracked by spasms from calcium deficiencies...

On a recent morning in a corner of the biggest emergency room in northern Nigeria, three women were convulsing in painful spasms, unable to speak. Each year, the E.R. at Murtala Muhammed Specialist Hospital in Kano...received one or two cases of hypocalcemia caused by malnutrition, said Salisu Garba, a kindly health worker who hurried from bed to bed, ward to ward. Now, with many unable to afford food, the hospital sees multiple cases every day. Mr. Garba was sizing up the women's husbands. Which source of nutrition he recommended depended on what he thought they could afford. Baobab leaves or tiger nuts for the poor; boiled-up bones for the slightly better off. He laughed at the suggestion that anyone could afford milk.

Gas and poverty in Mozambique

Al Jazeera, 6/16–Economists use the shorthand of "the resource curse" to describe how communities who live atop hidden riches not only fail to profit but also face peril. In 2009, prospectors from the Texas company Anadarko found some of the world's largest stores of natural gas off the coast of Cabo Delgado in Mozambique. The discovery of gas was at first a cause for celebration...

In 2019, TotalEnergies and its partners unveiled plans to invest $20bn in developing and extracting the gas in the largest foreign venture on the African continent...The people who once made their homes and tended crops there were moved to Quitunda, where construction began in 2018. In place of leveled villages sit a port and an airport along with a power station, street grid, emergency room and hundreds of cabins built to enclose TotalEnergies managers and gas workers within fortress-like walls...

TUPELO '79

A LESSON ON HOW TO FIGHT LIKE A RED

Despite open threats of police and Klan violence and warnings from the United League's sellout leaders, Tupelo workers and students came out to march on August 4. The spirit of the march was a sharp answer to the threats.

Despite open threats of police and Klan violence and warnings from the United League of sellout leaders, Tupelo workers and students militantly fought back on August 4, 1979. The Spirit of the march was a sharp answer to the threats.

Worldwide, the summer months are a time of training for Progressive Labor Party (PLP). As we gear up for a summer of learning, it's helpful to reflect on past Summer Projects. The following article is a reprint from CHALLENGE in 1979.

This issue, we look at the Tupelo Project of '79. Lessons include:

- In the face of the KKK, neo-Nazis and racist capitalist government, we must be bold and have confidence in the working class to take the lead of communists.
- Multiracial unity is our class's weapon, and the bosses' greatest fear.
- To sustain our gains, we must grow the Party and train more Black, Latin, Asian, and white young people in leadership.

Significance of Mississippi

To many who remember the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s, Mississippi symbolizes the most extreme racism, the most brutal murders of Black workers and antiracists, and the stronghold of the Ku Klux Klan.

For Progressive Labor Party, Mississippi signified a base for revolution among Black and white workers, spreading the ideas of multiracial unity and the fight for communist ideas in the South. Today, we celebrate the heroic struggle of the Tupelo Summer Project of '79. About 100 communists and friends—Black, Latin, Asian, and white—took part in this struggle.

Though relatively small (population of 20,000), Tupelo was an industrial center with over 14,000 workers. The South was important to the U.S. ruling class as an industrial area because its carefully nurtured tradition of racism made it the citadel of low-wage, non-union labor, where the bosses could keep the working class divided and weak to extract extra profits.

The project showed that masses of white workers

Continued on page 7

WRITE FOR CHALLENGE!

CHALLENGE strives to be the communist paper for and by the international working class. We call on all readers, supporters, and comrades to submit class struggle articles, analytical pieces, original photos and graphics, letters, and political cartoons.

The next deadline is night of Friday, June 28th

Send to desafio.challenge@gmail.com. For some guidance and house style rules, please go to www.bit.ly/338ZJow

All submissions are open to collective discussion, struggle, and change. See sidebar on page 2 about fighting for collectivity and against a cult of the individual.

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